

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the above-referenced application.

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A reinforcement grid for bituminous layers, comprising:  
  
intersecting strands made of a synthetic material, wherein the strands made of a synthetic material have a ductile yield ~~between~~ greater than 3% and less than ~~[[8%]]~~ 6%.
2. (Previously presented) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 1, wherein the ductile yield of the strands is between 5% and 6%.
3. (Previously presented) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 1, wherein the force absorbed by the strands increases into the range of the ductile yield in proportion to the value of the strain of the strands.
4. (Previously presented) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 1, wherein the strands are made of a high-strength polyvinyl alcohol (PVA).
5. (Previously presented) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 1, wherein the strands are each made of at least one high-strength yarn.
6. (Previously presented) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 5, wherein the yarns are woven together.

7. (Previously presented) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 1, wherein two intersecting strands are bound together by binding threads.
8. (Previously presented) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 1, further comprising an adhesive coating having an affinity for bitumen.
9. (Previously presented) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 1, further comprising a backing layer.
10. (Previously presented) The reinforcement grid according to Claim 9, wherein said backing layer is a nonwoven backing layer impregnated with bitumen.
11. (Currently amended) A reinforcement grid for a bituminous layer, comprising:
  - at least two intersecting strands including a synthetic material, wherein said at least two intersecting strands have a ductile yield that corresponds to a ductile yield of the bituminous layer, and wherein the ductile yield of the at least two intersecting strands is greater than 3% and less than 6%.
12. (Previously presented) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 11, wherein an absorbed stress value of said at least two intersecting strands for a given cross section is approximately proportional to a value of strain in said strands.

13. (Previously presented) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 11, wherein the ductile yield of said at least two intersecting strands is approximately equal to the ductile yield of the bituminous layer.
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Currently amended) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim ~~[[14]]~~ 11, wherein said ductile yield of the at least two intersecting strands is between approximately 5% and approximately 6%.
16. (Previously presented) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 11, wherein each of said at least two intersecting strands includes at least one high strength yarn.
17. (Previously presented) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 11, wherein said at least two intersecting strands are bound together by binding threads.
18. (Previously presented) The reinforcement grid as recited in Claim 11, further comprising an adhesive coating having an affinity for bitumen.

19. (Withdrawn – Currently amended) A method for reinforcing a bituminous layer,  
comprising:  
intersecting at least two strands within said bituminous layer, wherein said at least two strands include a synthetic material and wherein said at least two strands have a ductile yield that corresponds to a ductile yield of the bituminous layer, and wherein the ductile yield of the at least two strands is greater than 3% and less than 6%.
20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein said ductile yield of the at least two strands is approximately equal to the ductile yield of the bituminous layer.
21. (Cancelled)
22. (Withdrawn – Currently amended) The method of claim [[21]] 19, wherein said ductile yield of the at least two strands is between approximately 5% and approximately 6%.
23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, further comprising weaving together said at least two strands.
24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, further comprising binding together said at least two strands with binding threads.
25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, further comprising coating said at least two strands with an adhesive coating having an affinity for bitumen.